



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 9 February 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
9 FEBRUARY 1968

1. Vietnam
(as of 5:30 AM
EST)

We have no word of enemy action in the Khe Sanh area today. Late reports say that some 124 enemy troops were killed in the fighting there yesterday; US casualties were 21 killed and 27 wounded.

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2. North Korea

No new developments have been reported overnight.

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3. Jerusalem

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4. West Germany

Antiwar demonstrations by leftist students against US installations in West Germany are becoming more and more violent. An especially bold assault on the Frankfurt Consulate early this week almost broke in.

US officials on the scene believe that the local authorities have been too lenient, and that this is encouraging the agitators. The next target is likely to be the Hamburg Consulate this weekend.

5. South America

Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia are considering the establishment of diplomatic and formal commercial relations with the Soviet Union this year. Influenced by Colombia, which restored relations last month, and by Chile, which did so in 1964, these countries hope the move might help them unload some of their hard-to-sell commodities and thus ease growing economic troubles.

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6. Sweden

The number of US deserters known to be in Sweden now stands at 24; 13 have been given asylum.

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7. Rhodesia

Ian Smith wants to visit the US soon.

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8. Congo

Mobutu says he will propose at a meeting of the Organization of African Unity later this month that the mercenaries be allowed to leave for Europe. Although Mobutu still believes these men should be punished, he apparently will not attach any strings to their departure.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese Diplomat Comments: Hanoi is keeping the door to talks open but is not giving any greater appearance of flexibility.

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U Thant Meets With Hanoi Representative in New Delhi: UN Secretary General Thant met with the North Vietnamese consul general in New Delhi on 8 February, according to press reports. UN spokesmen characterized the meeting as "useful" and claimed that Thant met with the Hanoi representative in a personal capacity and not as Secretary General. No indication was given as to the matters discussed.

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Hanoi has maintained a consistent position in opposition to UN involvement in the Vietnam situation. The North Vietnamese have, however, never openly criticized Thant personally. They probably view any meeting with him as an opportunity to convey their position on the war and negotiations to an influential international figure who is on record in favor of several aspects of their stand, particularly on the end of the bombing.

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American Prisoners to be Released Today: Hanoi has confirmed its intention to send the three captured American pilots out of North Vietnam on the ICC flight today. Hanoi has cabled the head of the ICC in Saigon a manifest for the Hanoi-Vientiane leg of the flight; the names of the three pilots are on the passenger list. The plane left Saigon for Phnom Penh and Hanoi at 11:30 local time today.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing significant to report at this time. Hanoi radio has for some days now been saturated with propaganda relating to the Tet offensive.

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